



Foreign Agricultural Service

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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Update PSD Rice

2003

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Report Highlights:

Official estimate of 2002/03 rice production is at 17.1 million tons, 2.1 percent lower than last year's good crop of 26.5 million tons, due mainly to unfavorable weather conditions. However, rice exports are forecast to reach 7.4 million tons in CY 2003, up 2.8 percent from the previous year.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1], TH

PSD Table						
Country Thailand						
Commodity	Rice, Milled		(1000 HA)	(1000 MT)		
	Revised 2000		Preliminary 2001		Forecast 2002	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Marketing Year Begin	01/2001		01/2002		01/2003	
Area Harvested	9,920	9,891	9,900	10,125	9,920	9,990
Beginning Stocks	1,827	1,827	1,833	1,991	1,913	2,477
Milled Production	16,901	17,057	16,500	17,499	16,236	17,124
Rough Production	25,608	25,844	25,000	26,514	24,600	25,945
Milling Rate (.9999)	0.6600	0.6600	0.6600	0.6600	0.6600	0.6600
Total Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan-Dec Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan-Dec Imports U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	18,728	18,884	18,333	19,490	18,149	19,601
Total Exports	7,500	7,545	7,000	7,246	7,000	7,400
Jan-Dec Exports	7,500	7,545	7,000	7,246	7,000	7,400
Total Dom. Consumption	9,395	9,348	9,420	9,767	9,450	9,922
Ending Stocks	1,833	1,991	1,913	2,477	1,699	2,279
Total Distribution	18,728	18,884	18,333	19,490	18,149	19,601

The official estimate of rice supply and demand has been revised upward. The 2002/03 paddy production is forecasted at 25.9 million tons (17.1 million tons milled equivalent), 2.1 percent lower than last year's good production of 26.5 million tons (17.5 million ton milled equivalent). The contraction is from a reduction in the main paddy crop, which is expected to fall to 20.0 million tons, down 4.3 percent from the previous year. This fall in production reflects unfavorable weather experienced, particularly in the Northeastern region, which accounted for about half of the total main crop production. Main crops in the Northeastern region were affected by severe drought at the beginning of cultivation, and also by excessive rain before the harvested period, resulting in an estimated decline of production by about 5 percent from the previous year. As a result, the total fragrant paddy is expected to fall to 5.3 million tons. In contrast to the main paddy crop, the second crop production is forecasted to increase to 5.9 million tons, up approximately 6.0 percent from the previous year, due to sufficient water level in major dams and attractive current price-led expansion in planted area.

As for the rice trade, rice exports are expected to reach 7.4 million tons in CY 2003, compared with the government target of 7.3-7.5 million tons. In CY 2002, rice exports totaled 7.2 million tons, 4.1 percent lower from previous year's record high of 7.5 million tons, due mainly to strong competition from cheaper Indian and Vietnam rice. However, in CY 2003, the competition seems not to be so strong as it was in 2002. Indian export potential will slow down in the second half of the year due mainly to lower level of stock and low quality of rice.

With the recovery of rice exports in CY 2003 and the contraction of rice production in 2002/03,

ending rice stocks are forecasted at 2.3 million tons in CY 2003, approximately 0.2 million tons lower than last year's upward revised level of ending stocks.